

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, LT. COL. LUKE
WEATHERS, JR. VA MEDICAL CENTER
AND
THE TUPELO POLICE DEPARTMENT**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr., VA Medical Center (VA Police Department), and the Tupelo Police Department ("JPD"), hereinafter referred to as "parties."

1. **PURPOSE.** To establish general working relationships between the Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center Police Department and the Tupelo Police Department as a means of reinforcing interagency coordination and responsibility concerning law enforcement, emergency response, requests for assistance, and physical security and access control operations at the Tupelo VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic, located at 1114 Commonwealth Boulevard, Tupelo, Mississippi, 38804. The VA owned/leased property is considered within your jurisdictional responsibility, requiring a local law enforcement response.

2. REFERENCES.

- a) VA Directive 0730, Security and Law Enforcement, 12 December 2012
- b) VA Handbook 0730, Security and Law Enforcement, 11 August 2000
- c) VA Police Department Officers are granted police authority to charge and arrest for violations of Federal Laws and regulations promulgated under the authority of sections 901 and 902 of Title 38, United States Code and, implemented by 1.218 of Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations.

3. GENERAL.

- a. The Tupelo VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic, in conjunction with the Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr., VA Medical Center, located in the City of Memphis, provides primary, specialty, and extended care to Veterans throughout the Western District of Tennessee. The mission of the Tupelo VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic, in conjunction with the LT. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr., VAMC is to provide timely, efficient, ethical, safe, compassionate, and quality health care to Veteran patients.
- b. The Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VAMC has proprietary jurisdiction with the Federal Government over Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr., VAMC properties. This jurisdiction grants local police agencies the authority to jointly enforce Federal and state laws with VA Police on Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr., VAMC properties. (Tupelo VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic).

4. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. The Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr., Police Department will:

- (1) Maintain law and order and enforce Federal and State Laws and VA regulations at the Tupelo VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic, including the building and designated parking lots, for the protection of property owned/leased or occupied by the VA and persons on the property.
- (2) Provide primary initial responses to all incidents or emergency situations at the Tupelo VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic.

b. Tupelo Police Department will:

- (1) Respond to Lt. Col. Luke Weathers Jr. VAMC Police Service's requests for assistance. Such assistance may include, but not limited to, the following situations:
 - (A) Armed hostage taking situations that would require an armed response to assist the VA Police in containing the situation until appropriate Federal agencies (such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation - FBI) can respond to assume control.
 - (B) Crimes involving armed robberies of funds, drugs, or properties where the individuals committing the crimes leave VA police jurisdiction.
 - (C) Vehicle accident investigations, which may result in non-injuries, injuries, or death involving the VA Police patrol vehicles.
 - (D) Any major incident that would require additional Officers for traffic control to allow emergency vehicles clear access to the facility.
- (2) Provide Officers when needed to assist with the physical arrest of a violent/disorderly person(s) who poses a serious threat to VA patients, visitors, medical staff, or themselves.
- (3) Aid in the transportation of prisoner(s) who have been arrested at the Tupelo VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic on occasions when there are only two VA police officers on duty.
- (4) Should any VA Police Officer be involved in a shooting, the FBI will be notified immediately. If the FBI declines investigation, or if the FBI response is delayed, the Tupelo Police Department may provide investigative assistance to Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr., VAMC Police. This assistance may range from establishing,

preserving, and controlling the crime scene, to performing as the lead investigative agency.

(5) COMPACT ACT Section 205 Police Crisis Intervention Training for VA Police requires that each VA medical center police service develop a plan to enter partnerships with local mental health organizations and experts, Veteran community organizations, as well as local police departments to share training resources on Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT). This assistance may range from collaborated training and sharing law enforcement to coordinated intervention tactics when there is an extreme crisis involving a veteran(s).

(6) The Tupelo Police Department will handle all Acute Sexual Assault cases on VA Property. Sexually oriented crimes are personal violence crimes that have great psychological or physical effects on the victims. It is the policy of this department to assist victims of sexually oriented crimes in a supportive manner, using appropriate crisis intervention skills. Because of the special considerations involved in investigations of sexually oriented crimes, this policy encourages a multidisciplinary, coordinated community response.

a. At the crime scene: The officer shall protect the crime scene and begin the preliminary investigation. Explain to the victim the investigator's role and what will be done at the scene and through follow-up. The officer shall inform the victim of community-coordinated response agencies and resources available to support the victim. The officer should establish rapport with the victim and offer to transport the victim to the nearest facility for Sexual Assault intake. The officer should explain the medical and investigative purposes of the exam and advise the victim to bring a change of clothing.

b. At the hospital: The officer should collaborate with medical staff to arrange for the collection of evidence needed for prosecution. Ensure the victim understands the exam procedures and establish rapport for further interviews. Assist in arranging clothing the victim may need after the examination. The officer should never be in the examination room during the sexual assault exam, but shall the victim sign a consent form to obtain a copy of the medical report. The sexual assault evidence collection kit shall be received from medical staff after it has been properly sealed and labeled. The sexual assault evidence collection kit will be stored and/or submitted for testing in accordance with state law.

5. ACCEPTANCE & RATIFICATION

a. The provisions of this MOU are effective upon signature and date as indicated below and will be reviewed every 3 years, or as required.

b. This agreement may be unilaterally suspended or cancelled by either side upon giving at least 180 days' written notice to the other party.

- c. This MOU does not create additional jurisdiction or limit or modify existing jurisdiction vested in the parties. This MOU is intended exclusively to provide guidance and documents and an agreement for general support between the parties. Nothing contained herein creates or extends any right, privilege, or benefit to any person or entity.
- d. Other areas of mutual interest may arise where services and support from one party of this MOU are required by the other party of this MOU. This MOU is not meant to limit those instances nor prohibit cooperation outside the above-listed situations set forth and agreed upon.

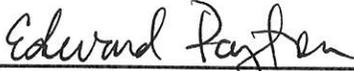
FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr., VAMC

JULIAN
MICKENS

Julian D. Mickens
Acting Chief of Police
Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr., VAMC
Memphis, TN

Digitally signed by
JULIAN MICKENS
Date: 2026.02.23
12:13:27 -06'00'

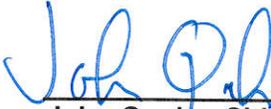
2/23/2026
Date



Edward C. Payton, MHS, FACHE
Director, Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr., VAMC

2/24/26
Date

FOR TUPELO POLICE DEPARTMENT



John Quaka, Chief of Police
Tupelo Police Department
Tupelo, MS

3/4/26
Date